IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A computer network system, comprising:

a circuit board forming a backplane;

at least one field replaceable unit (FRU) slot located on said backplane;

a bus;

a central resource coupled with said FRU slot via said bus, wherein said central resource is configured to generate a client-ID, wherein said client-ID is associated with said FRU slot; and

a non-volatile memory coupled to said central resource, wherein after generating said client-ID said central resource is configured to store said client-ID ~~is stored~~ in said non-volatile memory;

wherein, when an FRU is connected to said FRU slot, said central resource is configured to retrieve said client-ID from said non-volatile memory and provide said client-ID to said FRU, wherein said FRU is configured to download said client-ID via said bus.

2. (Original) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said FRU slot comprises a Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect (CPCI) slot.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said client-ID comprises one of a serial number, part number, and a geographical address of said FRU slot.

5. (Original) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said client-ID comprises a unique identifier and wherein said unique identifier prevents an FRU from clashing with other network devices.

6. (Original) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said client-ID comprises a client-id utilized by an address protocol for assigning dynamic Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

7. (Original) The computer network system of claim 6, wherein said address protocol comprises a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

8. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, further comprises ~~an~~ a plurality of FRU ~~held by said FRU slot~~ slots configured to receive a plurality of FRUs, wherein said central resource is configured to generate a unique client-ID for each of the plurality of FRU slots and store each client-ID in said non-volatile memory.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim [[8]] 1, wherein said central resource is a service processor ~~client ID can be downloaded by said FRU via said bus~~.

11. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim [[10]] 1, wherein said FRU uses an Intelligent Platform Management Interface (IPMI) protocol to download said client-ID from said non-volatile memory via said bus.

12. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim [[10]] 1, wherein said FRU uses said client-id for Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) booting.

13. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein, when said FRU is replaced with a new FRU, said central resource ~~retrieves~~ is configured to retrieve said client-ID from said non-volatile memory and ~~makes~~ provide said client-id ~~available~~ to [[a]] said new FRU, ~~and~~ wherein said new FRU ~~downloads~~ is configured to download said client-ID via said bus ~~when said new FRU is held by said FRU slot~~.

14. (Original) The computer network system of claim 1, further comprising a second FRU slot located on said backplane and wherein said central resource generates a second client-ID.

15. (Original) The computer network system of claim 14, wherein said client-ID is uniquely generated by said central resource for said FRU slot and said second client-ID is uniquely generated by said central resource for said second FRU slot.

16. (Currently amended) A method for client-ID generation on a computer network system, comprising:

generating a client-ID via a central resource;

associating said client-ID with a field replaceable unit (FRU) slot;

storing said associated client-ID in a non-volatile memory using said central resource;

retrieving said client-ID from said non-volatile memory;

providing said ~~stored~~ client-ID to an FRU via an interface; and

utilizing said client-ID by said FRU.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said FRU is inserted into said FRU slot associated with said client-ID.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said utilizing said client-ID by said FRU comprises utilizing said client-ID as a client-ID field for Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) booting.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

determining whether said FRU is to be replaced by a new FRU;

retrieving said client-ID from said non-volatile memory and making said client-ID available to said new FRU; and

downloading said client-id by said new FRU.

20. (Cancelled)

that this feature is taught in paragraph [0025], lines 17-25 of Cyr. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In paragraph [0025], lines 17-25, Cyr teaches:

> Servers 52, 54, 56 continue to use addresses for geographic loci 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70 for leasing or otherwise assigning addressees from address register 92. Address register 92 is illustrated in FIG. 2 in dotted line format to indicate that address register 92 is not a physical component of the system. Address register 92 is a conceptual register representing that the correspondence between client identifiers and client configuration data is fixed; such correspondence does not change. (Emphasis added)

While Cyr teaches servers 52, 54, and 56 "use addresses for geographic loci 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70 for leasing or otherwise assigning addressees from address register 92", Cyr fails to teach "wherein after generating said client-ID said central resource is configured to store said client-ID in said non-volatile memory" as recited by claim 1. Also, in Cyr, it is noted that "register 92 is not a physical component of the system".

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Cyr and Larson, whether alone or combined, fail to teach or suggest, "said central resource is configured to retrieve said client-ID from said non-volatile memory" as recited by claim 1. The Examiner contends that this feature is taught in paragraph [0070], lines 11-15 of Larson. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In paragraph [0070], lines 11-15, Larson teaches:

> In one embodiment, the configuration parameters downloaded from SMC 300E to host processor cards 300A over IPMI I^2C buses 554 include: IP address, gateway address, subnet address, and host name. (Emphasis added)

While Larson teaches downloading configuration parameters from SMC 300E to host processor cards 300A, Larson fails to teach "said central resource is configured to retrieve said client-ID from said non-volatile memory" as recited by claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to patentably distinguish over Cyr and Larson, whether alone or combined. Claims 2, 4-8, and 10-15 are dependent upon claim 1 and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons.